

***LIEUTENANT COLONEL (RETIRED) TOM LASSER***

***Veteran of the Year  
53<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District***

Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Thomas Edward Lasser retired after completing 40 years of military service. He spent seven years on active duty with the US Army and another 33 years with the California National Guard. Thirty years of that which was fulltime status with the California Military Department. Tom is a Vietnam veteran. He is now consulting for his own firm, T. E. Lasser & Associates, LLC.

LTC Lasser is an Air Force brat and was born at Selfridge Air Base, Michigan and grew in Riverside, CA. His dad, a career Air Force man and veteran of WW II and Korea, retired at March Air Force Base. Always wanting to fly, Tom joined the Army to fly helicopters.

He earned his Army aviator wings after completing the Army Aviation Warrant Officer Aviator Flight Course. He flew UH-1 Hueys in the Republic of Vietnam and after receiving a direct commission, he completed another tour in Vietnam flying Boeing CH-47 Chinooks. LTC Lasser then transferred into the California Army National Guard following his second tour of combat duty.

LTC Lasser has commanded at the company and battalion levels also serving in a variety of staff positions including Headquarters, California National Guard in Sacramento. His command and staff activities also include numerous assignments and duties during various disasters and emergencies and he functioned as the aviation task force commander during the L.A. civil disturbances. He has accomplished a three year tour as military liaison in the Governors Los Angeles Office. His duties included service with the Governors Office of Military Base Retention and Aerospace Support. Prior to these positions he was Airfield Commander, Los Alamitos Army Airfield on the Joint Forces Training Base in Orange County. Most recently he was the Southern California legislative liaison officer for the California Guard and concurrently supported various Guard community relations activities, media events and public affairs functions before he retired.

He is a master Army aviator with over 6000 flying hours including more than 1000 helicopter missions in Vietnam and almost 1800 combat flying hours. His military decorations include: the Distinguished Flying Cross(DFC),Purple Heart, Legion of Merit, Air Medal with 35 Oak Leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medals, Bronze Star and other commendations, service awards and campaign ribbons which reflect over forty years of military service. Unit awards include the Valorous Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

LTC Lasser's military education includes the Infantry Officers Advance Course, Army Command and General Staff College, Aviation Safety Officers Course, Senior Officer Logistics Management Course, National Interagency Civil-Military Institute and the Joint

Service Reserve Component National Security Course. He is a graduate of San Joaquin Delta College and the University of San Francisco.

He is on the Redondo Beach Veterans Memorial Task Force among other veterans groups and military association he belongs to. Tom is on the Board of Directors for the Greater USOs of LA which includes the Bob Hope Hollywood USO at LAX and the Ontario and Palm Springs Airports. He is VP of the Southern California Chapter of the Army Aviation Association and on the board of the Greater LA Chapter of the Association of the US Army. He is also a member of various professional and volunteer organizations. LTC Lasser is a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, VFW, American Legion and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). He is on the California Committee for the Dept of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR). Among other groups, he is a member of the Navy League, Air Force Association, the Assoc. of Naval Aviation and the Radio Television News Association of Southern California (RTNA).

He is married to the former Laura Elena Hermosillo of Stockton, CA. They have a daughter, Ami' Colette Lasser, who is in the fashion industry in Hollywood. The Lassers have resided in Redondo Beach for 20 years.

*(Courtesy of T. E. Lasser & Associates, 310-562-1121)*